

THE UNION LEAGUE PLAN.

FEATURES OF THE PRIMARY BILL MR. ROOT TOOK TO ALBANY.

PLATT WON'T HAVE IT, BECAUSE IT PROVIDES FOR SECRET VOTING, AND BLACK HAS NOT ENDORSED IT—BOMB OF ITS PARTS OPPOSED BY INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS.

Albany, Feb. 24 (Special).—"Perhaps there won't be any Primary Reform law after all," remarked Senator Platt's newspaper organ, after a month ago in a careless sort of way, and yet with a chuckle as though aware of the Senator's opposition to any bill for the improvement of the primaries. With Senator Platt waiting to stab any genuine Primary Reform bill, reformers have had to take care. It is a satisfaction, therefore, to know that Mr. Platt has been unmasked.

Elhu Root came here a day or so ago with a bill from a committee of the Union League Club containing many provisions intended to purify primary elections. A little ahead of him arrived Edward Lauterbach and John Sabine Smith, who were here clearly as representatives of the New-York organization of the Republican party. Mr. Root submitted his bill and had a long talk about primary reform with Mr. Black. Then Mr. Lauterbach and Mr. Smith had a talk with the Governor on the same subject. They made it clear to him that Mr. Platt and the machine will be opposed to the Union League Club bill so long as it provides for a secret ballot at primaries.

UNFAIR OPPOSITION.

People were not surprised to hear this morning after Mr. Smith and Mr. Lauterbach had left town that the Governor had concluded not to accept the Union League Club's bill at present. Some criticism of the measure have been made by Independent Republicans, but an examination of it does not indicate that their objections to it as a whole are so serious as to require its rejection. Its registration system and its secret ballot plan are certainly excellent.

It provides that on any one of the days of registration in the cities of New-York, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Troy and Albany a voter may have his name recorded as a member of a political party. There is no compulsion about this, a voter may enroll or not, as he pleases. The bill says:

The right of an elector to enroll as a member of a party as provided, shall be subject to challenge, and if challenged the elector may, at his option, file with the Board of Inspectors a written declaration in the form given in this section, or he shall answer the questions herein provided. If he shall file such declaration, or if he answer each of such questions in the affirmative, he shall be immediately enrolled, as if he had not been challenged.

PRESENT INTENTION THE QUALIFICATION.

The declaration referred to states that it is "the present intention" of the voter "to support generally at the next ensuing State or National election the nominees of such party or State or National officers," and that he has "not enrolled with or participated in the primaries of any other party since the last day of general election."

The seventh Tuesday before the day of the general election in every year is to be known as "the annual primary day," and the primary election of delegates to conventions is to take place on that day. There is to be an additional primary day this year, in June, in consequence of the election of Governor taking place, and at these primaries all voters who were registered last fall are to be permitted to vote. Perhaps Mr. Platt is displeased with this feature of the bill. Probably he would like a new enactment. Far too many Seth Low Republicans now have their names on the poll lists in New-York City to satisfy him.

The act provides that additional primary elections shall be held in June of each year when a Governor is to be elected. For thirty days before election names may be added to the rolls by voters who were registered the two preceding years, or by voters who have come of age since the registration days of the previous year.

Mr. Root's bill apparently provides that the Inspectors of election shall hold a special registration on the Tuesday following the first Monday of next June. This special registration day, if it is passed, will be June 7, 1898. All the expense of this extra day of registration for primary election purposes would be a county charge.

GOLD DEMOCRATS BARRED.

One of the grounds of the opposition of some Independent Republicans to the measure is that it does not recognize the right of Gold Democrats, members of the Social-Labor party or of Prohibitionists to hold official primaries.

It says:

The term "party" shall apply to any political organization which at the last preceding election of a Governor polled at least 3 per centum of the entire vote cast in the State for Governor.

The following number of votes were cast at the last election of Governor:

Frank S. Black, Republican	76,534
Walter S. Porter, Democrat	67,424
William G. Griffin, Gold Democrat	26,234
William W. Smith, Prohibitionist	13,499
Howard Balkam, Socialist-Labor	23,392
Total	1,424,549

Three per cent of 1,424,549 is 42,736. It would seem, therefore, that the Union League Club bill rules out the Gold Democrats, the Prohibitionists and the Socialist-Labor voters as members of any "party."

If they hold primaries they must hold them at their own expense. Doubtless this provision against the Gold Democrats would mightily please William J. Bryan. It would also probably please the leaders of Tammany Hall, who do not wish any Democratic organization to be created in New-York City except one controlled by them. A good many independent Republicans who favor a common registration day for all voters would not like it.

ANNUAL PRIMARY DAY.

The Union League measure provides that the seventh Tuesday before the day of general election in every year shall be known as the annual primary day, and in all cities to which the act is applicable there is to be held on such day (a) the primary election for delegates to all political conventions except (1) delegates to State and National conventions; (2) delegates to conventions who by the rules and regulations of a political party are to be chosen by other delegates to conventions called to meet prior to such annual primary day to nominate a candidate for or candidates to be voted for on some other day than the day of general election; and also (3) the primary election for all candidates for public office to be voted for at the next ensuing general election, who, by the rules and regulations of a political party, are to be chosen at such election; and (4) unless otherwise provided by the act the primaries for all party committees who are to be chosen by the electors of a political party and not at conventions.

Under this plan the "primary day" this year would be September 15.

CHANGES SINCE PAVEY SAW IT.

Senator Pavey has this to say to-day about the Primary bill: "I did not attend all the meetings of the Conference Committee at the Union League Club, and did not see the final results of their work until after their suggestions had been submitted to the Governor and Mr. Lauterbach. I do not know their reasons for changing the definition of a political party so

ITALY TO OVERAWE HAYTI.

ENERGETIC ACTION TO COMPEL THE BLACK REPUBLIC TO MAKE REPARATION.

London, Feb. 25.—A dispatch from Rome says:

"The Government has decided upon energetic action to compel Hayti to make reparation for the illegal sequestration of property of an Italian steamer at Port au Prince."

NO NEWS OF LA CHAMPAGNE.

HER AGENTS, HOWEVER, NOT ALARMED—THEY BELIEVE THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN ACCIDENT TO THE MACHINERY.

The French Line steamer La Champagne had not been sighted at a late hour. Several other steamers sailing over the course which she took having arrived in port, but they did not report sighting her at any time. The agents of the line are still most hopeful of her safe arrival, and do not appear worried over the fact that she is nearly five days overdue. They will, however, send for the list of passengers on the steamer some time to-day.

The steamers Germanio and Trave, which came in yesterday, took the same southern course, and neither saw anything of La Champagne. It is barely possible, however, that they passed her in the night. In this case, there can be nothing seriously wrong with the vessel, as her night signals of distress, had there been an accident, would have been even more noticeable than those usually shown in the daytime.

The officials of the company are now fully satisfied that something more than an ordinary storm has delayed the vessel, and the agent, M. Boccand, said yesterday afternoon: "It is not probable that the weather, rough as it has been, could delay the Champagne so long. Neither is the hypothesis that she is towing in another vessel tenable, for the Champagne is a mail steamer, and must make the best time possible, and accordingly works under the rule, 'save life, but no property.'"

"The only reasonable excuse for her slow time is, then, that she has met an accident to her machinery, and, like the Gasconne in a similar experience, is making repairs in midocean. I can honestly say that we feel no apprehension for her ultimate safety. In this spirit we have been reassuring those who have friends upon her and quite naturally are worried."

The officers of La Champagne are: Captain, M. Polrot; first officer, De Monvel; second officer, Monty; third officer, Housset; fourth officer, Bellandier; fifth officer, Phillips; chief engineer, Valin; second engineer, Lagnon; third engineer, Martel; fourth engineer, Le Pinic; steward, Lanoire, and surgeon, Jullian.

On board the overdue vessel are forty-eight first class, thirty-three second cabin and 203 steerage passengers. Among the first-class passengers is Miss Grace Spencer, daughter of Brigadier-General Bird W. Spencer, inspector of practices for New-Jersey, who has been studying music in Paris.

The vessel's crew numbers 175. She has 234 mail pouches and a valuable cargo. She was built at St. Nazaire, France, in 1886, and is of steel. She was fitted with engines and thoroughly overhauled three years ago.

RUSSIA'S PLEDGE TO ENGLAND.

PORTS SECURED BY HER IN CHINA WILL BE OPEN TO THE WORLD—THE CHINESE LOAN.

London, Feb. 24.—The Parliamentary Secretary for the Foreign Office, George N. Curzon, replying in the House of Commons to-day to a question, said Russia's pledge respecting free ports in North China was conveyed in the following note:

"Count Muraviev (the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs) has expressed great surprise at the agitation which appeared to prevail in England, both in the press and in official circles, on the subject of recent events in China, where English and Russian interests could not be seriously antagonistic. Count Muraviev observed that various English statements of position had recognized that it was perfectly natural Russia should wish for an outlet for her commerce on the coast of the North Pacific. Any such ports will be open for the commerce of the world, and England, whose trade interests are so important in this region, would share the advantage."

Half the Chinese loan, amounting to \$8,000,000, was fully underwritten this afternoon. Some of the applications had to be rejected. The issue price is 90 and the interest from the loan is 4 1/2 per cent. It will be offered publicly a week hence.

PRINCE HENRY LANDS AT SINGAPORE.

Singapore, Feb. 24.—The German warship Deutschland arrived here to-day. Prince Henry of Prussia landed and was received by the Governor, whose guest he will be during his stay here. The German Minister gave a fête in honor of the Prince to-night.

SELF-GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN'S CONCESSIONS TO THE HOME RULE SENTIMENT.

London, Feb. 24.—The Secretary of State for the Colonies, Joseph Chamberlain, as set forth in a Parliamentary paper just issued, proposes that in future the differences between the British South Africa Company and the natives must be submitted to the Secretary of State, whose decision will be binding. In addition, the Administrative Council of Southern Rhodesia is to be augmented by four elected members to the Council, and sufficient of the company's nominees to insure the company a majority. Further, while the responsible expenditure of the commandant of the forces will be left to the Crown, he will be a Deputy-Commissioner, and the control of the High Commissioner will be based on information from the Imperial Resident Commissioner.

Mr. Chamberlain has also agreed that there shall be separate Administrators for Matabeleland and Bechuanaland, and that there shall be only one Executive Council.

The Government of Cape Colony has approved Mr. Chamberlain's proposals, regarding them as clearing the way for self-government and the probable eventual Federal Union of the Cape.

CHAMBERLAIN'S PRAISE OF FRANCE.

London, Feb. 24.—In reply to a question as to the West African situation, Mr. Chamberlain said in the House of Commons to-day that he expected a friendly and satisfactory settlement, but, under the agreement with France he could not give details until the negotiations in Paris were ended. The difficulties, he observed, had not arisen regarding the delimitation of the Say-Borua line, but in the delimitation west of the Niger. Speaking generally, he would say that the competition of other nations had compelled Great Britain to adopt a more forward policy in the hinterlands of her African colonies. From the French point of view, he would only admit French policy, which had carried out for France an enormous empire, from which she would in the future derive well-deserved benefits.

THE QUEEN IN LONDON.

London, Feb. 24.—Queen Victoria arrived in town to-day, and will hold a drawing-room to-morrow. Her Majesty drove from the railroad station to the Palace in semi-state, and was heartily cheered on her way there by the crowds in the streets.

E. H. SOTHERN IN A NEW PLAY.

Rochester, Feb. 24.—E. H. Sothern produced his new romantic play, "The Head of the House," by Louis Evan Shipman and Glen McDonough, at the Lyceum here this evening. The play is based on Thackeray's "Henry Esmond" and follows the novel closely.

THE SOUTHWESTERN LIMITED.

A fast limited, train to St. Louis and Cincinnati without an excess fare, via New-York Central, Lake Shore and Big Four route. Most comfortable train; leave Grand Central Station—centre of hotel district—every day at 1 p. m.—Adv.

VIZCAYA TO SAIL TO-DAY.

TO LEAVE PORT THIS AFTERNOON IF HER COAL IS ALL ON.

DELAYED BY REPAIRS TO HER MACHINERY—TAKING ON QUANTITIES OF PROVISIONS—OFFICERS ENTERTAINED BY THE CONSUL-GENERAL, WHO ALSO VISITS THE CRUISER.

The cruiser Vizcaya will lift her anchor this afternoon and start on her voyage for Havana. At least this was the statement made by Señor Baldaño, the Spanish Consul-General, when he was seen at his home late last evening. The stay of the Spaniard at this port was unexpectedly lengthened by reason of the discovery of several slight damages to her machinery. The original intention was for her to remain here one week, but the various incidents arising in the last few days caused this order to be countermanded, and she was ordered to sail on Wednesday. She was to take on board coal enough to last her for her trip to Havana, and this programme was about to be carried out when Captain Eulate, in having all made shipshape for her sailing, discovered that some parts of her machinery were defective.

While the defects discovered would not have prevented her sailing, as they could all have been repaired on board the vessel by his own men, while she was at sea, the captain felt that the utmost care should be taken and everything put into the best of order before he attempted to round Cape Hatteras, which he believes to be a most dangerous locality. Accordingly, he arranged to have the parts repaired here. At the same time he decided to have the coal bunkers filled to their utmost capacity, as well as to take a large quantity of provisions on board. The repairs will be completed by noon to-day, and if all the coal arranged for is on board at that time, the cruiser will sail some time in the afternoon.

In speaking of the repairs last night, Consul-General Baldaño said to a Tribune reporter: "It is not true that the steering gear of the Vizcaya was seriously damaged. Even if it had been damaged, the ship has both the ordinary and steam steering apparatus, and could have proceeded to sea, and there had the parts of the steam gear replaced by her own men. The whole delay was caused by the careful attention of Captain Eulate, who desired to have everything in the most perfect working order before he left this port, and therefore he took extraordinary precautions. I think that the Vizcaya will sail some time between 2 and 4 o'clock this afternoon."

ENTERTAINING THE OFFICERS.

Consul-General Baldaño was entertaining a number of the officers of the vessel at a farewell dinner at his home when seen by the reporter last night. These officers all expressed their admiration for New-York City and its magnificent buildings. They had come on shore early in the morning and had spent the day in sight-seeing. While they praised everything, they showed both by their actions and words that they were really glad to leave this port, owing to the many restrictions that had been placed upon them, including the police guard for the vessel as well as for themselves, whenever they came ashore.

In regard to this police and naval guard, it has been said that many persons have been restricted, that had been placed upon them, including the police guard for the vessel as well as for themselves, whenever they came ashore. In regard to this police and naval guard, it has been said that many persons have been restricted, that had been placed upon them, including the police guard for the vessel as well as for themselves, whenever they came ashore.

Several other visitors were on board yesterday, but the marine patrol continued as active as ever, circling around the big cruiser, and keeping back all those who had not the requisite passes to visit the ship.

THE CAPTAIN PLEASED.

Captain Eulate expressed himself as greatly pleased with his visit, in company with the Consul-General, to Admiral Bance and Major-General Verdugo, and to the Spanish Naval Commission in New-York, and a reporter visited the Vizcaya without a pass, and those who say they are, are simply making that statement for the sake of notoriety. It is also untrue that Captain Eulate gave any public interviews on Wednesday, and had no reason to believe that the only newspaper representative on board the vessel on that day was the reporter of The Tribune.

MRS. W. C. WHITNEY IMPROVING.

A REASSURING MESSAGE FROM AIKEN RECEIVED IN THIS CITY.

Aiken, S. C., Feb. 24 (Special).—If it can be said that there is any change in Mrs. Whitney's condition, it is for the better. Dr. Dana arrived this morning on a special train, and held a consultation with the other physicians, but the result of the conference was not made known. It was announced this evening that Mrs. Whitney was resting much easier, and her friends in the household are much more cheerful, but there is still the evidence of paralysis.

Dr. William T. Bull left here for New-York to-night. Dr. Dana will remain with Dr. McGahan. The wound in Mrs. Whitney's forehead was stitched up by Dr. McGahan and is getting along nicely. At midnight it was said that Mrs. Whitney was still paralyzed on the left side, but the doctors hoped this would wear off when she recovered from the nervous shock.

At No. 24 West Fifty-seventh-st., the home of William C. Whitney in this city, the butler said last night that a telegram from Aiken, S. C., had been received at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon saying that there had been a marked improvement in Mrs. Whitney's condition during the previous twenty-four hours.

GLADSTONE TO UNDERGO AN OPERATION.

AN EFFORT TO RELIEVE THE AGED STATESMAN FROM PAIN.

London, Feb. 24.—"The St. James's Gazette" this afternoon says it is informed that Mr. Gladstone will shortly undergo an operation to alleviate the pain caused by necrosis of the bone of the nose, from which it is alleged, some of the specialists say, he is suffering.

TRYING TO CLOSE COREY'S NEW "CLUB."

THE PROPRIETOR OF THE BELDEN, ONCE THE HAYMARKET, AGAIN ARRESTED.

Edward C. Corey, the proprietor of the Haymarket, at Sixty-ninth and Thirtieth-sts., which is now being operated under a charter issued to the Belden Club, was arrested last night and taken to the West Thirtieth-st. station. The arrest was made upon evidence secured by Detective Smith and Quinn. Corey had been having his men issued by the Haymarket, which is now being operated under a charter issued to the Belden Club, was arrested last night and taken to the West Thirtieth-st. station. The arrest was made upon evidence secured by Detective Smith and Quinn.

READY TO LEAVE HAVANA.

THE MAINE COURT OF INQUIRY ABOUT FINISHED ITS WORK AT THE WRECK.

CHAPLAIN CHIDWICK AND OTHERS EXAMINED YESTERDAY—DIVERS CLOSELY QUESTIONED—STRICT SILENCE STILL MAINTAINED BY THE BOARD.

Havana, Feb. 24.—The Court of Inquiry held its usual sessions to-day. Captain Sampson reports that Chaplain Chidwick was examined as to his personal experiences at the time of the disaster to the Maine, and that the testimony was taken of the captain of a British bark in the harbor and the superintendent of the West Indian Oil Works, across the bay at Regla, both of whom witnessed the explosion. Mr. Roif, the British engineer of the floating dock in the harbor, wrote a letter to the court, but, it is said, did not say anything material to what was known.

At the afternoon session the divers were examined more fully than before. Their testimony is taken from day to day. The court has now about finished its work here and is almost ready to sail on the Mangrove for Key West, where the other officers and men will be examined.

The session of the court this afternoon was devoted to taking the testimony of two civilians, Americans, who saw the explosion from the deck of the Ward Line steamer City of Washington, that was moored a few hundred yards from the Maine, and of two divers, who have been at work on the wreck for several days.

It is believed the court will return to Havana after hearing the Key West witnesses, but no official confirmation of this can be obtained. The explosion is no longer the sole topic of the conversation, though often referred to. The public here appears to be content and to be well assured that nothing except surprise is possible until the report is made. Havana seems normally busy, and the stores are well filled with customers.

The coast survey steamer A. D. Bache, after many delays, left here for the Dry Tortugas this afternoon, with three wounded men, all doing well. Owing to the American quarantine regulations the wounded, having been in hospitals here and exposed to fever, must be taken to hospitals in the Tortugas for quarantine. The names of the wounded on the Bache are John Heffron, of Framingham, N. J.; Thomas J. Waters, of Philadelphia, and Jeremiah Shea, of Haverhill, Mass. The other wounded are doing well late this evening. Even Holtzer, though sorely wounded, is better, and is making a gallant fight for life.

No bodies were recovered to-day from the wreck. Recent orders from Captain Sigbee strictly forbid all officers of the Maine to give out any information except to those officially empowered to ask it. The order is generally understood to apply to all official matters, though some think it affects only matters connected with the disaster.

The wrecking tug Right Arm did not go North, as was expected, yesterday. She is now moored beside the poop of the wreck, and will salvage the smaller portions as far as possible in advance of the arrival of other tugs with better facilities for heavy work. The hoisting apparatus must be capable of raising scores of tons in the effective work to be accomplished. The wreck has sunk several feet in the mud already, and will probably continue to settle.

Additional newspaper men arrive with every steamer. The papers of all the large cities in the United States are represented, and the principal hotels are well filled. The skies are bright to-day, and flecked with light clouds. There is a strong breeze blowing, and the temperature is below seventy.

Neither the officers of the Court of Inquiry nor the witnesses will give the slightest indication of the testimony or the conclusions deducible from it, and all say that the men employed on the wreck have been warned to observe an equally strict reticence. This course is regarded as eminently wise by the American and all intelligent Spanish officials, as there is no telling what passions might be aroused or what evil results might be brought about by talking freely on official matters in the present state of public feeling in Havana. Thus far Americans are treated with the utmost courtesy and kindness, and it seems the special care of the residents of Havana to show friendliness. Such a state of things is certainly desirable; but it might easily be changed if officers, only partly informed of the truth, talked for publication.

Consul-General Lee says there is no truth in the report that he had asked Captain-General Blanco to dismiss from Cuba certain newspaper men for sending sensational stories to the United States. On the contrary, General Lee has never interfered with the American newspaper men in any way whatever.

To-day the principal streets and buildings are gayly decorated with flags and bunting in honor of the Spanish soldiers, 2029 infantry men, under the command of José Amador, who arrived this morning by the steamer Montevideo, from Barcelona.

General Solano, the second Chief of the Staff, to-day returned on board the Mangrove the visit of the Court of Inquiry, acting as the representative of the Governor-General. Admiral Manterola personally returned the visit paid to him by the Court.

The Thursday receptions of General Blanco were resumed this evening. The insurgents have raided the Smith and Fischer plantation on the Canamabo, in the Trinidad district, and killed one and wounded five of the defenders, who numbered only seven. They burned all the buildings but the dwelling of Mr. Smith, and, according to the Spanish account of the affair, took away or destroyed \$200,000 worth of provisions and merchandise and got \$10,000 in cash.

On Saturday last a party of about forty guerrillas left a fort on a farm near Aguacate, about forty miles from this city, "as was their custom," to dine at a neighboring place. In the absence of the guerrillas a detachment of about fifteen insurgents occupied the fort, and when the guerrillas returned from dinner the insurgents fell upon them with machetes and killed twenty-five out of the forty guerrillas. The remaining fifteen members of the Government force succeeded in escaping.

SEEMED TO SECRETARY LONG.

THE COMMANDER OF THE CONNECTICUT NAVAL BATTALION GOES TO WASHINGTON.

New-Haven, Conn., Feb. 24.—In response to an order from the Secretary of the Navy, E. G. Buckland, who commands the Naval Battalion of Connecticut, started for Washington to-day. The order received read as follows:

Although nothing definite as to the import of Mr. Buckland's summons to Washington is known, it is thought that he is to receive instructions about getting his men ready for service at short notice, if the necessity for so doing arises.

THE FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE SIGHTED.

The steamer Friedrich der Grosse, Captain Elche, which sailed from Bremen on February 14, with merchandise and passengers, is reported to have sighted south of Fire Island this morning, or ten minutes after midnight.

MINISTER WOODFORD'S BANQUET.

IT IS IN HONOR OF SENOR POLO Y BERNABE—DIPLOMATS, MINISTERS AND OTHERS PRESENT—SPANISH WAR TALK.

Madrid, Feb. 24.—The United States Minister, General Stewart L. Woodford, gave a banquet to-day in honor of the new Spanish Minister to Washington, Señor Polo y Bernabe. In addition to the latter the guests included the Austrian, Russian, French, German, Italian, Turkish, Dutch and British Ministers or Chargés d'affaires and their wives; the Duke of Veragua, the lineal descendant of Columbus, who was the guest of the United States at the time of the Chicago Fair, and the Premier, Señor Sagasta. There were also present Señor Morot y Pendergast, the Minister for the Colonies, and his wife; Señor Gullon, the Minister for Foreign Affairs; and Señora Gullon; the Marquis Zuloaga, the Introducer of Ambassadors; the Countess Sagasta; First Lady in Waiting to the Queen Regent; the Duchess of San Carlos; the Marquis Valde Iglesias, and the staff of the United States Legation.

Much political importance was attached here to the incident, and the banquet, "coupled with the peaceful utterances of President McKinley," according to a semi-official report, was "optimistically utilized by the Ministerial press."

But the "Imparcial" to-day takes the Spanish Government to task for its "apathy, contrasted with the patriotic feeling of the country," and warns the nation against the "hypocritical Yankee policy, which really aims at the independence of Cuba."

Continuing, the "Imparcial" remarks: "President McKinley may make and reiterate protestations of friendship and pacific intentions, but his actions contradict his words. While the President of the United States is cajoling us with words he sharpens his dagger to stab us behind. While talking concord he utilizes his Sundays in unusual war preparation at the docks and cancels the furloughs of the marines. Can we trust those who are preventing the pacification of Cuba and fomenting rebellion and filibustering expeditions, sending warships under the pretext of friendship and preaching peace? We must prepare for war. There is no time to acquire new warships, but we should act immediately what we have, sending the Pelayo, Colon, Carlos V. and Maria Teresa to follow the Almirante Oquendo and Vizcaya to Cuban waters, and the rest of the fleet to guard the Peninsula. Other policy than preparedness is only to play the American's game, which is to exhaust our resources and gain the independence of Cuba without risking anything."

How long will the amazing American plans? How long will the amazing nation tolerate the apathy of the Government?"

This language, from a semi-official organ, is much commented upon.

The "Pais" frankly declares that Cuban independence is imminent.

CABINET COUNCIL IN MADRID.

RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN DISCUSSED.

Madrid, Feb. 24.—The Queen Regent presided to-day at a Cabinet Council which discussed the relations between Spain and the United States.

DE LOME REACHES QUEENSTOWN.

HE TALKS OF THE MAINE DISASTER AND SAYS HE LOVES AMERICA.

Queenstown, Feb. 24.—Señor Dupuy de Lôme, former Spanish Minister at Washington, who was a passenger on the White Star steamer Britannic, from New-York, which touched here at 7 o'clock this evening on her way to Liverpool, was interviewed with reference to the disaster to the United States warship Maine in Havana Harbor.

Señor De Lôme said he could only repeat his expressions of deep regret, and that he knew it was quite impossible for Spaniards to view it in any other light. Spaniards, he declared, wanted peace and not war. He had many friends among the officers of the Maine, and he loved them and America. "Whatever the cause of the accident," said Señor De Lôme, "I could never have been seen by the agency of the Spanish people."

WOULD NEVER SELL CUBA.

IT WOULD EXPOSE THE MONARCHY TO AN IRRESISTIBLE POPULAR MOVEMENT.

London, Feb. 25.—The Madrid correspondent of "The Standard" says:

"Spanish statesmen of every shade of opinion are simply amazed and indignant at the idea that Spain would ever consent to sell Cuba. The suggestion would expose the monarchy to an irresistible movement of popular feeling, shared by the army and navy. The suggestion would be a financial point of view it is equally impossible, because the price suggested would not half cover the Cuban debt, which is almost entirely held by Spaniards."

PUNISHMENT FOR BAKER'S ASSASSINS.

PROMPT ACTION TAKEN BY THE WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES.

Washington, Feb. 24 (Special).—The Administration has taken prompt steps to discover and bring to justice the perpetrators of the cowardly murder of Frazier B. Baker, the fourth-class colored postmaster at Lake City, S. C. Although under the law the murderers are primarily responsible to the South Carolina authorities, yet the additional crime of burning the postoffice and its contents is punishable in the Federal courts. Postoffice inspectors will be sent to the scene of the murder to make an investigation, and if their reports contain any evidence on which action may be based the prosecution of the offenders will be undertaken by the Department of Justice.

A reward has been offered by the Postoffice Department for information leading to the discovery of the persons implicated in the murder of Baker and the burning of the postoffice. A singular coincidence in the case of Baker is that on February 21, the day before he was murdered, he wrote a letter to the Postoffice Department, saying that his life had been threatened and asking that the Government extend some protection to him. This letter was received yesterday afternoon.

Senator McLaughlin, from South Carolina, was among Postmaster-General Gay's callers to-day. He expressed his horror at the crime in which Baker lost his life. He asked that the Department use every means at its command to discover the perpetrators of the outrage, and assured Mr. Gay that he would do everything in his power to assist him.

A dispatch was received from Inspector Moyer, at Lake City, this afternoon, saying that he was pursuing the investigation directed by the Department. There was no clue to the murderers, and no part of the postoffice property had been recovered. The coroner's jury which is investigating the case had adjourned until 12 o'clock Saturday.